

JERRY AND NELLIE FIALA

Tape 4, Side 1

August 13, 1996

M.O'R.: This is a continuation of the interview with Jerry and Nellie Fiala on August the 13th. So you were starting to say you had concerns about your own well?

N.F.: With all the wells going in around here, with too many houses, there's two new houses right there, and of course that area up there, Milton and Evelyn Van Horn have their tree farm there. We have seen this land above us go from hayfields to a tree farm and back to fields again, and the horse business up there now, and they replanted trees, and they pulled out a lot of Milt's trees. They didn't replant. They took out the beautiful trees that Milt had had in his tree farm, some very special trees. I mean, they weren't all Douglas fir. They were Noble fir and so forth. I hated to see them. We sat here and watched them pull those trees out with a big machine and burn them, against the law.

M.O'R.: When was this?

N.F.: Oh, about two years ago, the Stewarts were burning up there, dear?

J.F.: Last year and year before.

N.F.: Was it last year? In hot weather. We called the Fire Department, and they said that somewhere up here there's a line where West Linn Fire Department doesn't come from Willamette or Rosemont, and it's Tualatin, and so ours couldn't go there, which is ridiculous when it was hot weather and blowing. We had cinders coming over. Finally they got a fire truck and they sat up there. But they still run.

J.F.: They were burning there all summer.

N.F.: Yes. Huge piles, into the night, and our burning laws say from 10:00 in the morning till 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon or something, you know. It varies, and if we have a bonfire, we're supposed to call and see if it's a burning day, and there's no rules or regulations about what they were doing.

But things like that have happened, and as I started out to say, they were pulling the trees out that had grown up from what Milt had had there. So we see a difference. I see a difference right here, sitting right here and looking out across my world.

M.O'R.: Milt is one of your neighbors?

N.F.: Milt Van Horn who had the tree farm. His wife is gone, and she had a gift shop up there which was well known and sold beautiful things there, and when he lost Evelyn, well, he couldn't keep it up alone. So that's when he started selling off some property. I'm talking too much. What was your next question?

M.O'R.: That's fine. Well, have you had any interaction with any of the groups that are either trying to take care of the Tualatin or groups that have regulations here on the Tualatin besides the ones you already told me about. Let's start with the Tualatin Riverkeepers. Do you know about that organization?

N.F.: No. Where are they? Upriver?

M.O'R.: Well, I think they're concerned with the whole river. Their office, I believe, is in Tigard. I'm not sure. But they haven't come out here and talked to you or anything?

N.F.: No, they haven't.

M.O'R.: Okay. And you now have brush between you and the river, is that right?

J.F.: Yes. We've got a timber spot down here.

N.F.: We have trees.

J.F.: Some trees. There's quite a few fir trees down here.

M.O'R.: But there was a clear way down to the river when you were a kid?

J.F.: Oh, yes. Cattle would run in there all the time, and it was more like a park. It was open, the cattle kept the brush down. You take 30 head of cattle and they'll chew a lot of leaves, and the property was fenced so they could only go so far here.

N.F.: It made a lot of difference in our back yard from here to the river when there was no more stock running. They did keep it down, and as he said it was beautiful under the trees there. But we have never had stock on our own. He had enough of it as a child, he says.

M.O'R.: So this was the sister then that was running the livestock?

N.F.: Yes, and the brother who was in Oswego and is now deceased. The nephew has horses down there. But they're just in that area. They don't run loose.

M.O'R.: But that's why you don't have access to the river now is because the brush has grown up?

N.F.: Yes.

J.F.: Well, I couldn't walk down there if I wanted to.

N.F.: I can't either, and no one fishes down there anymore. We used to have lots of people come out from Oregon City, Oswego to fish here, but no one fishes anymore, I think because it's grown dirty.

J.F.: Tualatin at one time was known as a great bass stream.

N.F.: And crawfish.

J.F.: Crawfish.

N.F.: Do you know about this Tualatin Crawfish Festival?

M.O'R.: A little bit. I've heard about it, yeah.

N.F.: Now they have to import the crawfish. I don't know if they're still having it every year or not.

J.F.: Fifty years ago, 40 years ago, there were people that made a living catching crawfish on the river.

N.F.: As long ago as when Jake's Crawfish House in Portland started they got crawfish out here a lot.

M.O'R.: Jake's would buy Tualatin crawfish then?

N.F.: I don't know. That's been in Portland a long time, but I don't know just when.

J.F.: Well, we had the neighbor across the river in the '30s, every day he would take a big tray of cooked crawfish tails to Jake's Crawfish House, every morning.

N.F.: That was before my time.

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: Didn't you say it was in the '30s?

J.F.: About 60 years ago.

M.O'R.: And so he would catch the crawfish and then go ahead and cook them for Jake's?

J.F.: Cooked them and cleaned them and took the trays, sometimes several trays, depending the business there, I guess.

N.F.: They'd set traps in the river for the crawfish.

J.F.: He had maybe a hundred traps.

M.O'R.: Do you think he made some money on that?

J.F.: Well, he seemed to.

N.F.: I guess as much as selling a calf occasionally and milk and cream and so forth, like all farmers.

M.O'R.: Just sort of incidental ...

J.F.: He had his commercial license.

M.O'R.: Oh, to harvest the crawfish?

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: And did you ever fish for crawfish down there?

J.F.: Well, we had traps but very seldom used them. About all that I ever put the traps in for was bait.

M.O'R.: So you didn't eat too much crawfish then?

J.F.: No.

N.F.: But he has said that if his mother wanted a fish for dinner - and refrigeration was a problem for fresh meat. To go to town and get, you couldn't do that. But anyway, they'd go down to the river and catch fish. It was that simple. They could always get bigmouth bass. We have some pictures of when our youngsters were little, and there's a string they're holding, the two boys are holding this out, and there's about probably 12 or 13 bass on a stick, like a piece of hazel brush or something, that they run through the fish.

M.O'R.: So fishing was pretty reliable back in those days.

J.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: It sounds like maybe you have left your property line on the river the way people want you to leave it nowadays, which is to say untouched so that nature just takes its course. But there's regulations now about what you can do along the banks of the river. I wonder if you've ever had any problem with that.

J.F.: No. No problem. We never worked close to the river.

N.F.: We found out, I don't know how many years ago, that we did not own riverbank property. We own riverview. The neighbor across the creek has bought that other piece up because, and this is ironic, ridiculous in a way, his son wants to build down there, but they didn't have quite enough land for Rick to build a house down there. So Rick will still build a house alongside his folks across the creek and on the river. But they got enough land by buying the piece along the river, little strips, and added that to their home piece, and that gives them that much property, but not that much space. They can't build on that strip along the river, and the only thing that could ever happen to that strip along the river, and this is why it was bought by Bill and then by us, was

that someone could like put a boat landing across the river or something and come up on the place. Something of the that sort, a nuisance thing.

But there has been talk, you know, about the land along the river and who owns what and so on and so forth. I think it's cropped up through the years. In fact, there's a little land thing, it's that land that hasn't been - well, we put up the money for the whole thing, and we have to have it portioned out who's got what. But as far as I'm concerned, a piece of property along the Tualatin River is valueless for scenic or for recreation because it's so dirty. I'm afraid I'm not a booster for the Tualatin River at all.

M.O'R.: You think it's a lost cause?

N.F.: Yes, I do. But Jerry knew it long before I did, and they did use it, they did, and they had boats, had a boat always, and they swam in the river, and our kids never did. Maybe I denied them something, but ...

M.O'R.: A good dose of giardia or something.

N.F.: Yes, indeed, yes.

M.O'R.: What about you, Jerry? Do you think that it's worthwhile to try to clean the Tualatin up?

J.F.: Never be cleaned.

M.O'R.: Yeah? It'll never be as clean as you remember it.

J.F.: No. Nobody can tell me that that sewage water is pure. I don't care how many filter plants it goes through, it isn't like spring water.

M.O'R.: That I'm sure is true, but it's supposedly a lot cleaner now than it used to be, though, the sewage water.

N.F.: Yes, there's that sewage plant down at Springfield, a large area holding pool where they keep it stirred up and it goes

up into the air, and they say it's' good enough to drink. I'll take Bull Run or well water or something.

M.O'R.: Not that.

NF: Not that.

J.F.: Well, for one instance about the river, Shadowwood Park upstream from us, that's a big group of houses just below the bridge on Stafford Road.

M.O'R.: Right, I drove by the Shadowwood Road this morning coming out here.

J.F.: Yeah, and they had a large dock when that was being developed, and they had the springboards on it. The top one is 20 feet from the dock up, built up. They had ladders going up. In the hole there where it was anchored was 60 feet deep, and I was told a number of years back that the man that owned it, Bouts, Tony Bouts, the one that owned Shadowwood Park, that they went out there and tested it, and the hole was only 20 feet deep.

N.F.: And people were diving into it.

J.F.: It's all filled up with sediment.

N.F.: There's a place where they used to swim. Have you ever gone on down Johnson Road to Willamette through here?

M.O'R.: No.

N.F.: About halfway to Willamette from here, it's maybe closer than halfway, closer to Willamette. It's where the roads come down from Rosemont Road into Rosemont Acres through the Grapevine Road area, and people used to go down there and swim. There was a deep hole. They called it the Hole, I think. Down at the foot of Grapevine where they used to swim.

J.F.: What, on the old Johnson place?

N.F.: Yes.

J.F.: Johnson Road was named after the family.

N.F.: But there was a deep hole there, a real deep hole.

J.F.: Yes, yes. But in the wintertime, the current is very strong there.

N.F.: It is, yes. Well, they didn't go swimming in the winter. It didn't matter. Are we getting too far off the subject here?

M.O'R.: No, this is good. We're talking about the Tualatin. That's fine. I'm wondering over the years if you ever had any encounters with people who were using the river, like maybe they had a problem with their boat and had to come ashore here or anything like that, any problems with -?

J.F.: No, in all the years we've been here, there was only one person came here to get gasoline for their outboard motor.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah? They ran out of gas on the river?

J.F.: Yeah. They were from up around Tigard somewhere.

N.F.: Something that bothered me a great deal, Michael, when I first lived here. People were used to going through this land, his folks have never stopped fishermen from going through. They continued to go by, and here I was with two babies and he was working so much, but this wall here, this was before we built the living room, they'd go right by there, right by my window. It was public, and it bothered me a great deal, and it just, well, it gradually stopped. But I wasn't used to that. Had lived in town a lot, but not that, not in my own - right along beside my house.

M.O'R.: Actually, one question I was going to ask you, Jerry, was when you retired, when was that? What year did you retire?

J.F.: Look at my retirement card. December 31, 1975, I retired.

M.O'R.: Okay. So you've been retired for 21 years now.

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: When you retired that gave you all this extra time here. What did you do then?

J.F.: There was no extra time.

N.F.: What do you think?

M.O'R.: Well, that's my question, really. You started doing more here on the farm?

J.F.: Well, I was always working at something.

N.F.: His tractor upkeep, for one thing.

J.F.: We have three tractors and a bunch of old equipment, and there was always some repair work.

M.O'R.: Did you change the amount of = you said that for a while you rented the farmland out to the people that grew hay?

J.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: When you retired, did you do more farming, or was there still the same amount?

J.F.: Well, I took care of the whole place then.

M.O'R.: So you no longer rented the land to ...

J.F.: No more rented out.

M.O'R.: Is that when you stopped renting it out was when you retired or did you stop before that?

N.F.: Before.

J.F.: Yes, we stopped before that.

M.O'R.: And just took it over all to yourself before that?

J.F.: Because we had the beanfield for years.

N.F.: Yes, we've had the beanfield; we started out when Rich was two. The older boys wanted to do something, and Wes was 13 when he got a contract with the Sherwood Canning Company for his beans. And they had half an acre of beans, and so they'd pick them and put them in gunny sacks and Jerry would take them over there when he got home from work when Wes wasn't old enough to drive, and it grew from that. Half an acre. There was a big demand. Then Sherwood Canning went broke, shut down and ...

J.F.: They sold out.

N.F.: They sold out, yes.

M.O'R.: Did that affect you? Did you get caught in their going broke?

N.F.: Well, yes, because they quit buying from us.

M.O'R.: Oh, but they didn't owe you any money at least?

N.F.: No. No. They were very nice people to deal with. Two brothers, one was - that was the one I wanted to talk to when I called them. The other one wasn't as nice. But at any rate, no, that was when we changed somewhat to the store area.

For a while, we were selling as many as 35 crates of beans I guess every week to Fred Meyer's in Clackamas, their wholesale house, and things like Safeway and then the Thriftway stores and small stores around the country. We did a lot of delivery, a lot of picking. That's when we had the pickers, after - well, we picked also for the cannery, but that was a different setup entirely. But it's just now, this, as I said, is the first year we have not had a commercial bean crop.

M.O'R.: But this year you have corn, huh?

N.F.: No commercial crop. We're not selling this year. Except maybe, I had a customer call this morning, she's been coming for years, and it was one came to the door the other day, and Jerry says, "Well, we maybe have some extra corn," and he called the store in Oswego about it because it's just more than we thought we'd have. The corn crop is very good, two ears to every stalk and so forth, and so we will be selling again, I guess.

It means keeping track of it all and making out the money and making out self-employed papers and so many papers to make out when you're in business. But since it will be family - well, I don't know who'll do the picking. The family will have to pick. Jerry I don't think will be able to do it all. But if there's corn, it will get picked.

M.O'R.: Some of it will be sold and the rest you will consume here?

N.F.: Yeah.

M.O'R.: I wanted to ask you both a little about the Homeowners Association. I guess you've been active in that?

N.F.: I have. I was. I was president for nine years, three-year terms over and over again. And I was getting to where I was, I was nervous when I would be conducting a meeting. But we still belong, we still hear about it, and I talked to them yesterday, two or three people about this because of that.

One thing, we agreed that it will be 30 years in February since we were incorporated, and at the present time we are the oldest group in the state of Oregon that has stayed incorporated for that type of thing, and we have done a lot. We have done a great deal.

M.O'R.: What do you see as some of the big achievements of the Homeowners Association over the years?

N.F.: Less crowding. The freeway. We lost the deal on the freeway. That's when we were first fighting was when the freeway came through right down there.

M.O'R.: This is I-205?

N.F.: Yes, and we didn't want it out here. It ruined much farmland across the river, and we didn't want it out here. Oswego had a chance for it and they were sorry afterwards they didn't take it because it would have been much more direct. They it would ruin their city and it probably would have, but they became a bigger city anyway, and this remained rural. It opened up this part of the country to more roads, more homes, more developments, and it just spoiled the whole area.

When I'm - I've been in a hospital bed for some time, and when I'm there and the window's open, I hear the freeway. And the

people, our neighbors down across the creek, say that when they were working building the freeway, it sounded like the bulldozers were coming right into our front room. It's the noise we objected to, the pollution. Through the environmental quality group, we put out, I don't know what to tell you, but to measure the air, the quality of air and how it differed when the freeway went through. We had one down where the freeway was and one upstream. There was three through here, and it changed a lot, a great deal. But the whole Portland area has.

M.O'R.: So it sounds like you're not very much in favor of all this building and development that's taken place.

N.F.: No, we're not.

J.F.: No.

N.F.: Definitely not.

M.O'R.: It probably makes your land more valuable, though.

J.F.: No.

M.O'R.: It doesn't?

J.F.: It doesn't.

N.F.: If we sell it, yes.

J.F.: A number of years back, the Legislature took this part, this 57 acres, and 77 acres up here that adjoins Satherwood Park where the tree farm was, and put that into an open space because nobody can't - that's why when the tree farm sold out, it was hard to get a permit, building permit. They got so many restrictions. And the tax rate had dropped almost to way below all the rest of the property around here. In fact, this eight acres along the road here, the taxes went from \$200 down to 38, so they don't want anybody to build on it. They want to leave it open all the length of the riverfront.

M.O'R.: And so this includes your land, too, huh?

J.F.: Yes.

N.F.: Yes, there's been a lot of controversy and discussion and meetings and decisions that are then changed, since I've lived here, the last 50 years or so. Maybe not that long, but it has been a big idea of change, and a lot of it is because of people coming from other parts of the country. California sends many, many, many people here, and it's just the Northwest is getting more thickly settled.

M.O'R.: Yeah, that's right.

[End of Tape 4, Side 1]

JERRY AND NELLIE FIALA

Tape 4, Side 2

August 13, 1996

N.F.: It isn't just here. It's in many areas. We're lucky that this was declared an open space. Very fortunate. Otherwise, the taxes probably would have gone so high, if we sold property for building.

M.O'R.: That's right. You could have maybe been facing prohibitively high tax bills to just continue the life that you've led all these years.

N.F.: Yes, but it has changed a lot. There's two new homes across the way there. Our son there, our son down there.

Incidentally, when Richard and Terry wanted to build, that piece right there was not from the original family property. I wanted it; it was an orchard. And when we bought it, they wanted to sell just that much or the whole 13 acres, and we felt at that time that we couldn't afford the 13 acres, and we bought the orchard land, which is under an acre, for \$400, and that was what we gave Richard and Terry then for building.

So what I started out to say was that because of the zoning, we could not give them a piece from one of our fields. We couldn't divide the fields. There was 20-acre zoning, and we would have given them two acres or more of this field here on down, but we couldn't do it, and we were very fortunate that that is a separate piece of property, and they could have it. It changed their plans a lot, but that's all right, they're there, and they're gardeners. Their daughter, our daughter-in-law, has done miracles with working around the orchard, not cutting out the orchard.

Then when our other son was applying as Jerry said, Wes had owned the property for many years, and that was the one that they

said was level property. They came out and looked, they didn't even get out of the car. So that again is your authorities. We have run into it through the years in one way or another. Well, everything's changed so much, you're bound to run into those things. County laws have changed as much as our lives have changed here.

M.O'R.: Getting back to the Homeowners Association for just a minute, and you said the freeway fight was one of the big things that they did. But, of course, you lost then the fight.

N.F.: Yes, we did, yes.

M.O'R.: What were some of the other things that the Homeowners Association has done?

N.F.: Well, one thing that we have been very pleased about was when the freeway brought out a lot of building, we worked and got Borland Road declared a scenic piece from Wankers Corner into the city of West Linn border, and there's to be no, I think I told you, no used cars lots and so forth along there, no hamburger stand. Our slogan was not to be like another 82nd, that sort of thing. And it has been kept open, and it's a beautiful drive, and when you're going, you see Mount Hood right there, and that sort of thing, and we have worked on things about the Tualatin River.

The freeway was the main thing, and about zoning. A property, you couldn't cut it down into little housing projects across the river, and that kind of turned tails on us, Michael, in that when it became five-acre zoning and the property went up so high, it's just the wealthy could do it, and that wasn't what we intended to have done. But that is what's been done with the property that's been divided, a great deal.

So I don't know, I talked to one of them last night, Larry - what was it Larry told me here. He was in it from the first. Our name used to be the Lower Tualatin Valley Homeowners Preservation

League, and we shortened it. I think it's the Tualatin Valley Homeowners now maybe. We named the ones that probably went to Salem and signed the incorporation papers, and he was raised up here on Chiles Road right at the line of Washington County, just this side. He was raised there, and that was when they had fields out in front of him.

M.O'R.: I'm wondering who were some of the other members in the Homeowners Association that were especially active or effective when you were -?

N.F.: Some of the original group were Gerdon Elsie Rhoder, a very very intelligent man, and he had something to do with the markets in Portland, the vegetable markets, I can't remember just what. But he was way up in the office, an older man. And then Phil and Rose Hodell. Phil owned Huntington Rubber Mills down on Macadam Avenue. Do you know when Huntington Rubber Mills was down there?

M.O'R.: No.

N.F.: When I was a kid, it was down there in the Johns Landing area. We were on the river side of it. And he knew a lot of people to contact to help us, and their son Don was ...

What cabinet office was Don Hodell in?

M.O'R.: He was Secretary of the Interior, I think.

N.F.: That's right. You're right, a Secretary of the Interior.

M.O'R.: Or was it energy maybe?

N.F.: Could have been energy at the time of the Bonneville Dam, yes. Jerry and I were talking about that last night. Yes, I think so.

M.O'R.: And he was the Bonneville Power Administrator before that.

N.F.: That's right, yes. Yes, it was that.

M.O'R.: He was the Bonneville Power Administration Administrator, and then Nixon appointed him, I think, to ...

N.F.: Come to Washington.

M.O'R.: ... to be the Department of Energy head, I believe.

N.F.: Yes, you're up on politics, aren't you?

M.O'R.: Well, Don Hodell, of course is a very famous ...

N.F.: Very widely known.

M.O'R.: Yeah, a very widely known figure.

N.F.: Yes, that's right, yes.

M.O'R.: But now, his parents were involved in the Homeowners Association.

N.F.: Very much so, yes. They lived down here on the river road, right down by the dam. It's now called Tualatin Loop, just between here and Willamette. And there was another older couple down there, Fred and Lou Schmidt, who were very active also. And then this Larry Kelse is dead, but Jo, his wife, is still alive, Josephine. Larry, I think, was one of the original ones that went to Salem and got the incorporation put through. And then Larry and Rosalie Morrison who lived over on Chiles Road, and there was Louise and Bert LaLiberte. He was a retired Army, oh, staff sergeant or something. He wasn't real high in it, but he knew a lot of the ropes.

And Elsie Miles on Halcyon Road. And Ken Wright has been our president pro tem, he says because he can't get other people to take the job, for a long time now, and I talked to him last night about it, and he mentioned other names. Reverend Hugh Tattersall, Kermit Miller down the road, whose son is now secretary of the Homeowners. It pleases us so much that somebody like that has stepped into it, a younger man, and he is secretary of the Homeowners. We have lots of members. We have lots of money in the cash box, but people don't attend like we don't attend, and our

children are always out of town or have to work that night or something. As I wrote here, we lost the war over 205, but we won several battles.

M.O'R.: What are some of the battles that you feel you've won?

N.F.: Well, the one from Wankers Corner into town to keep it a piece of scenic land.

M.O'R.: Oh yeah, that's right. You mentioned that.

N.F.: And it was a big battle, West Linn wanted the freeway, the city of West Linn, and it grew afterwards, and we did not want it, and that was a big battle, big meetings. And then taxes was a big one.

M.O'R.: So was there a split in the Homeowners Association then? No?

N.F.: No, no, the Homeowners versus ...

M.O'R.: Versus West Linn, huh?

N.F.: Yeah, and anything else that was wanting it, the State Highway Department, and you perhaps don't remember when the old West Linn Inn was down where the paper mills were.

It was a beautiful big building, and it was a boarding house for the paper mill men who didn't live at home or came for it a ways or something, is what it was. It also had beautiful meeting rooms, it was a beautiful building. It should never have been torn down. But at any right, we had meetings there because we needed the larger space to have it, and there was lots going on there. The freeway was taking out a friend's home in West Linn, an old friend of Jerry's, and they fought it, but we lost it, lost the battle.

But we did keep the road clean over here - and I can't think offhand. Let's see, the one about higher taxes I started to tell you. We brought speakers, the county men and so forth, we brought

speakers out, men who were in power and knew things to talk to us. There was always a speaker. The time that we brought out the county assessor, Don Hatten, for, I guess, the higher taxes, we had 200 people there that night, and because they feared a riot, we had deputy sheriffs all around the meeting room. I chaired the meeting, but I turned it over to the county officials. I didn't have it the whole meeting.

But anyway, that was quite something. Fighting, we got into it many times with local questions. As I said, we tried to keep people informed by having different speakers, lots of speakers.

I perhaps could tell you that when we first met, there was a schoolhouse up there, the old Azalea schoolhouse which has been lost to arson, they felt. Just where Chiles Road comes onto Stafford Road? It was just above there, and up on the hill. But we met there for several meetings, and then we met in the rooms of the Stafford School after that.

I don't know what else to tell you.

M.O'R.: What else do you have there in your notes? Any other subjects that we haven't talked about yet?

N.F.: Well, I wonder what you know about Washington County because my family, as I told you, a lot of them were from Washington County, and I wondered if you ever ran into the name of Wilcox, Rooks, Bales?

M.O'R.: No.

N.F.: No? No. The Rooks were there, well, in the Pumpkin Ridge area.

M.O'R.: Well, of course, I live now in town, in Portland.

N.F.: Yes, I know, but I thought as historian, maybe. What do you collect as historian?

M.O'R.: Well, my main affiliation is actually with the Oregon Historical Society in Portland, and it's just been for this past

year that I've been working with Washington County on this project having to do with the Tualatin, and so ...

N.F.: Oh, and that will go into the Oregon Historical Society then or -?

M.O'R.: Well, it's really the Washington County Historical Society's project, but there will be copies of the materials at the Oregon Historical Society also. So there will be a copy of this tape and all the others at both places. But I'm actually directly working for Washington County on this project, but just for this one year. So I don't know a lot about Washington County's history, just what I've had to learn to talk about the river a little bit.

N.F.: I wonder do you know the Hutchinson name? There was still Hutchinsons out there not many years ago.

M.O'R.: No, not really.

N.F.: When I was in the rest home after I broke my leg a year and a half ago, one of the nurses, a gentleman named Michael, can't remember his last name, and he had been raised in Washington County and he'd gone to high school with one of the Hutchinsons, and we knew the Hutchinsons when my mother was little, she called them Uncle Irv and somebody, I don't know. But I wondered if you knew anyone out there, any of the historical names.

M.O'R.: No. I have relatives, too, out there, actually.

N.F.: Do you? Oh.

M.O'R.: Yeah. My aunt and her husband farmed there for many years. Their name was Gevette, but they just had a small farm in Hillsboro. I have a couple other relatives out there, too.

N.F.: Are they O'Rourke's also?

M.O'R.: No, no.

N.F.: The other side of the family.

M.O'R.: They're from my mother's side, yeah.

N.F.: That's the way with me.

M.O'R.: Yeah, Albertson was her name.

Well, maybe I'll ask you to talk a little bit about your family, your background. Where again were you born, Nellie?

N.F.: I was born in Portland.

M.O'R.: Okay, that's right. Yeah, I think I remember that from last time.

N.F.: My grandfather was a Wrenn, W-r-e-n-n. We are very English from Christopher Wrenn down. When I was little, Grandpa Wrenn had a box factory on Macadam Avenue. This trunk is from it. I have another trunk over there from his Multnomah Box and Trunk, or Trunk and Box, I don't know which. That was my grandfather's.

M.O'R.: And they used to make boxes and trunks, then?

N.F.: I have a lot of material on him, but if you wanted to go further into that, I could get the books out, but they're up, I can't reach them and have to help with them. But I have a book, *Men of Oregon* in 1911, and Grandpa's picture was in there and the story of his business.

My grandmother Wrenn came from Washington County out near Gaston, and had worked out there or had a store out there for a while, I'm not sure which, and that's how he met my grandmother Wrenn, from Washington County, and he was from Multnomah County. That was my grandfather.

But at any rate, they're from Virginia and have been out here, he was the first one to come West. And my father and mother were both raised in Portland.

M.O'R.: And is that where you grew up then, was in Portland, too?

N.F.: Until I was 10 and there was a family split, a separation and divorce, and then we ...

M.O'R.: Your parents divorced then?

N.F.: Yeah, and we lived in West Linn. I went to school one half a year in Oregon City and a year in West Linn, and we moved to White Salmon, Washington, Appleton. Do you know that area?

M.O'R.: Not Appleton specifically, but I know where White Salmon is.

N.F.: Appleton's in the hills above White Salmon, north of White Salmon.

M.O'R.: And when you moved there, you moved there with your mother or your father?

N.F.: With my mother, and they were remarried. I had a stepfather and a stepmother eventually, and it was with mom and a stepfather, and we went to school up there. I went White Salmon High School.

And with you interested in history, it might be just as a side thing here, I'll make it very brief, that there's still a group holding reunions, my class group, and they have a high school reunion every year. But any rate, and we have a historian a year older than I, Keith McCoy, who does a lot of work like you're doing, and he has published books.

But at any rate, I was up there and then when I finished high school, we had meanwhile had moved down here and I stayed with my aunt and uncle to finish school, and the family came back to West Linn and been around West Linn ever since. So I'm local, Portland, West Linn, White Salmon.

You have another appointment?

M.O'R.: I've got another appointment this afternoon, too.

N.F.: Do you ever get us mixed up?

M.O'R.: No, I try not to. This time, actually, I'm going down to talk to Eleanor Phinney.

N.F.: Oh, you are going to talk to -?

M.O'R.: Yeah. She of course has not lived here anywhere near as long as you folks, but she's somebody who's taken quite an interest, I think, in the area.

N.F.: Who was the other person that mentioned Jerry to you? Can you tell me? You said two people.

M.O'R.: Oh, Lukens, Becky Lukens I think is her name?

N.F.: I think you did tell us, but we didn't know who it was.

M.O'R.: Right. And then the other people in this area that I've interviewed are the Pauls, well actually, Roz Paul and her daughter. They live on Tualatin Loop also.

N.F.: Peter and Roz Paul.

M.O'R.: Exactly.

N.F.: They're old friends of ours, and their daughter. Was Toby here?

M.O'R.: Yes, Toby was here a few weeks ago.

N.F.: Oh. She's our daughter's age. She's a year older.

M.O'R.: Yeah, and they mentioned you, too, actually, once I interviewed them.

N.F.: I suppose so, yes, because we've been friends for many many years.

M.O'R.: And they were in the Homeowners Association, too.

N.F.: Yes, they were, and Herbert Miller. If you want to get more news on the Homeowner, Bill Miller, who lives down the road, has been secretary for many years, and they're very active. Herbert was active in it, and a lot of us around here with the Homeowner background. The Millers have been down here as long as I have lived here, and the year we built the house, they moved out, but of course, none of them have around as long as Jerry. I can mention a friend to you, but I doubt that she will want to - she's

very shy and probably wouldn't help, and that's Geraldine Doogie right up here. Somebody mention Geraldine Doogie to you?

M.O'R.: I think you mentioned her to me last time probably, yeah.

N.F.: I probably did, yes. She probably wouldn't - I doubt that Bud would want to talk to Michael.

J.F.: Very very shy.

N.F.: Yes, very shy, and she has been here, she's younger than Jerry, but she was born up here, as Jerry was born here, and it's fun when they're together because they talk about this and that, and when and so forth.

M.O'R.: Now, you already told me the story of your marriage taking place during the war and, I guess, how you got together, too. I think we talked about that last time.

N.F.: Yes.

M.O'R.: You mentioned a little bit about your life during the years that Jerry was working in town. I wonder if you can tell me a little bit more about what would be a typical day in the life on the farm here for you back in those days.

N.F.: When we had the field or before then, before we had the beanfield and such?

M.O'R.: Well, tell me both.

N.F.: Well, we moved out here when our eldest son was four months old, when we were living down west of here. And he was working, maybe he wouldn't get home till 2:00 in the morning lots of times, and I didn't like being alone here with a baby. I couldn't drive, I've never driven, and I was afraid here lots of times.

I'll never forget. There was a whistle at night, and I didn't know there was a bird that was out around the edge of the house, and I didn't know what was going on out there. Then the horses

used to be around here. We weren't fenced off from the pasture. My nephew stayed with me. He was five when Wes was tiny, and Bruce would hear that thump, thumping noise at night and he didn't know what it was, and it was the great big horses walking around.

M.O'R.: Ah, yes.

N.F.: But at any rate, I got used to it, and then we had the two babies, and I was busy. I was very active in PTA. I was active in, I taught Sunday School, and I was active in working for the Sunday School, sewing. I've done a great deal of sewing for charity type of thing. Hospital Guild, I was active in it for many years. We helped build the osteopathic hospital in Portland, and it's now the Eastmoreland Community Hospital. But I worked in that.

I sewed for Jerry's aunt, and I sewed for an elderly lady in Oregon City, not for money, but because they needed clothes, a lady who was very hard to fit, and so I've done a lot of sewing. I've done it for my family. I did it for the Hospital Guild and the church work and donated things and that, and we used to donate our canned string beans to the church sale in the fall.

M.O'R.: And what church is this?

N.F.: The Methodist Church in Oregon City.

M.O'R.: Okay. Maybe you mentioned that already.

N.F.: You can't donate home-canned things anymore. Some woman spoiled it, some woman in Portland by raising a ruckus about it.

M.O'R.: Oh, really?

N.F.: Yeah, and we can't donate it to FISH. Do you know about FISH?

M.O'R.: Yeah.

N.F.: You do?

M.O'R.: A little bit about FISH. I've heard of it at least.

N.F.: We've worked very closely with FISH through the years, and all of the extra produce would go to FISH, and our church group, if we happened to have it on Wednesday, that was when they wanted it, and we have a friend in Gladstone, a lifelong friend of mine, Tom Blye, who has worked with us very closely on this sort of thing.

So that's been my life, mostly raising children. I did some babysitting. I never asked for babysitting, but I did babysit. I sat for Toby Paul.

M.O'R.: Oh, yeah.

N.F.: And they had a little girl, a foster child, and Debbie and Toby were here with us a great deal when Roz and Peter were both teaching. And then the young family up here, I took care of the three boys. Again, I didn't ask for the job, but they - well, there was a divorce there. But I took care of the children, when they were quite little.

And there's always been work to be done when they're working in the field, bossing the bean group.

M.O'R.: Right, you told me a couple stories about that.

N.F.: Yes, yes. I've been busy. I've just started sewing again. I had eye surgeries, and now I can sew again.

M.O'R.: You got your eyesight back.

N.F.: I have some orders in for the grandchildren already, what they want.

M.O'R.: Well, good. Maybe I'll ask you both if there are any other stories, either about the farm here or about the river that we haven't talked about so far?

J.F.: Nothing.

N.F.: Nothing spectacular, except fighting and meetings and things like that, and seeing West Linn, seeing the area develop.

This one family that's up here that just bought part of, there was a fellow who bought up a lot of the land and split it up. He wasn't very popular in the neighborhood for a while. But he did bring in other people, and there's two homes here and then one that's been there as long as we've been here, and we've kept up with that family and the children, five children grown up, grandparents, but it's just that sort of thing. I didn't work out after we were married, after we moved out here, after Wes was born, and I think I told you about working with the wood and the pieces from the battleship Oregon?

M.O'R.: Maybe, why don't you tell me a little bit more about that? I can't remember. We may have touched on it last time.

N.F.: When the battleship Oregon was scrapped and ...

M.O'R.: Oh, yeah, I do remember you telling me about that.

N.F.: Yes, and we worked on the wood parts, and I loved that, doing that, working with wood, and I still like to work with the wood. You can see, we all like the woodwork.

M.O'R.: Yeah, a lot of nice natural wood here.

N.F.: But I told Jerry what I wanted, and then he built it, we built it together. I'll never forget - well, you wouldn't want the trivial things.

But I've raised a family, done community work.

M.O'R.: And what were you going to say, you'll never forget what now? What ...

N.F.: I thought you wouldn't like the trivial things about when we were planning the wall, the, with the plywood, vertical grain plywood. You can't get it anymore, and I planned it so that we had enough for the closet door. I worked and worked on this with squared paper until we had a whole piece for the closet door. I used to love to do that. But a Homeowner primarily taking part in community and church projects. That about covers it.

M.O'R.: Okay, well, I want to thank you both for taking this time to talk to me.

N.F.: It's been wonderful having you, Michael, and rehearsing this.

J.F.: It's been a great pleasure.

N.F.: Yes, it has.

M.O'R.: Well, it's been a great pleasure to meet you both and get to know you a little bit.

N.F.: Thank you. You've dredged up memories.

M.O'R.: Well, you know, I'll review these tapes and if I decide that we overlooked something, maybe I'll give you another call and come back out and talk to you again.

J.F.: We'll be here.

M.O'R.: Okay. Well, thank you again.

[End of Tape 4, Side 2]